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Fresno, Calif.,  
9-8-96

1. Note: Grandfather J. F. Querkson, in his post-script to Dr. Menno Gaede, made much of the "grace of God." My father told me of an incident related to him by Grandfather of a boy and a girl whose parents had died (in the "old country"). They were adopted by different families; and they lost track of each other. Then they met and fell in love, and they married (not knowing that they were brother and sister). Their marriage was a good marriage, and their children were all normal. Grandfather said, "That is the grace of God."

2. Note: I have tried to faithfully translate this family history of ours written originally in German. (Note the broken and incomplete sentences and the inconsistent punctuation.) I have had to do this by installments, which even then made me very tired both mentally and physically. This is my first "major" length of writing since my mild stroke in August, last year, But I enjoyed doing it.

—Marcellus Querkson  
(Grandson to J. F. Querkson)

(3. Note: J. F. Querkson was a pioneer for higher education. H. W. Lorenz was his star pupil at McPherson College who later became the first president of Tabor College, Hillsboro, Kansas. J. M. J.



is represented in California. — Both brothers <sup>(2)</sup> were very hot-headed and lived in discord. — (and) H. Heinrich Querkessen. He had a number of sons, Abraham, Jakob, and Kornelius, Johan. Some of them emigrated to America, to Dakota, 1879. — —

### Suppliment to I. Generation.

My great-great-grandfather was also married three times. Of his II. marriage descendants: Old Kornelius Querkessen (and) Sara Querkessen. So called, because he became very old. He was married twice. Of his

#### I. marriage descendants:

1. Johann Querkessen (Shoe maker-cobbler).
2. Peter Querkessen (Tailor).
3. Anna Querkessen, married to Martin Dieckmann (Alexandertal)
4. Elizabeth Querkessen, married to my Uncle Cornelius Querkessen — (Cooper, Hooker, California)
5. Katherina Querkessen, married to Johann Regier (Elder) Henderson, Nebraska.
6. Sara Querkessen, married to David Friesen. His descendants in California.

#### II. marriage descendants (with a Welke's daughter)

1. Kornelius Querkessen
2. Jakob Querkessen
3. Johann Querkessen
4. David Querkessen
5. Gerhard Querkessen
6. Heinrich Querkessen
7. Anna Querkessen, married to Kornelius Dallke. Some of his children are Peter Dallke,



Mrs. H. D. Penner (Professor and Reverend)  
 8. Helena Querkens, married to Heinrich Friesen (at Hillsboro).  
 Some of his children are Cornelius H. Friesen, Buchler, and  
 my cousin's wife Mrs. Heinrich Querkens, and Bernard  
 Friesen.

(and) Sara Querkens  
 She was married to Peter Penner, their children  
 are:

1. Peter Penner (Aleksanderkrone)
2. Heinrich Penner
3. Jakob Penner (Aleksandertal)
4. David Penner, Buchler, Kansas
5. Franz Penner, Prangenan
6. Sara Penner, married to Heinrich Franz, Kansas,  
 Oklahoma. Their children were:

Peter Franz or Franzen, Corn, Oklahoma married to  
 my wife's sister Anna Warkeutin, their children are:

- Peter A. Franzen, married to Bessie Holly, Heinrich  
 W. Franzen, married to Katrina Merk. Sara Franzen,  
 married to Johann A. Isaak, Katrina Franzen,  
 married to Abraham J. Wefehr. Johann W. Franzen.  
 Susanna Franzen, married to Albert C. Schmidt, David  
 L. Franzen. Elizabeth (?) Franzen, married to Alvin Hinz.  
 Matilda Franzen; Isaak Franzen.

### Suppliment to I. Generation. Descendants of my Great-great Grandfather's III. marriage:

1. Gerhard Querkens. A very useful and recognized  
 man, at times, he was village magistrate in Aleksandertal  
 and he was fire chief in the Moltechna settlements, thus  
 over 60 villages. Some of his children are:

1. Abraham Querkens - Blacksmith in Aleksandertal
2. David Querkens - School teacher and elder in  
 Margenan - then preacher in the Mennonite Brethren  
 church and elder of our church in Crimea.



3. Gerhard Querkson, village magistrate and<sup>(4)</sup>  
then superior magistrate.

4. Cornelius Querkson.

5. Jakob Querkson.

6. Anna Querkson married to Heinrich Funk, my  
cousin. He has died in prison.

Johann Querkson, usually called Oel-  
Ohm - Johann (or Oel-Man - Johann). Had 8  
children, all born and raised in Russia and  
practically all emigrated to America.

#### IV. Generation:

1. Heinrich Querkson. Moved to America in  
approximately 1875; has lived in Marion County, Kansas.  
(Goessel area) his children Heinrich and Peter; Elizabeth  
married to Heinrich Querkson, son of school teacher  
Querkson of Alefandertal, and Maria Querkson, married  
to Johann Nikkel at or in Hillsboro, Kansas.

2. Johann Querkson, to America 1875. Marion County,  
Kansas. He had a strong family and much land. God  
blessed this family in a special way. They were  
pious farmer-people like most of our generations.  
Uncle John died very suddenly, apparently just  
before eating supper at the table.

3. Peter Querkson, lived in Elizabethtal,  
Russia. Was a miller and made flour; had a  
windmill and a treadmill, and was a good  
farmer. Has been married twice and has died in  
Nikelaiderf. of dropsy in a good old age. His  
children are Johann (now in Canada), Julius,  
Helena, Peter and Gerhard. They have had to  
endure the severity of the revolution in Russia.



4. Cornelius Querkseu, a very strong and lively man lived in Rudnorweide and on the Don-side on the land, was converted to God, wandered out to America and lived in Hillsboro, Kansas, then in California, he became an Adventist. Most of his children live at Shafter, California, apparently all are farmers.

5. Jakob J. Querkseu married to Katherina Funk, lived in Alexandertal; he really wanted to become a tailor, but became miller with a small plot of land, and it went well with them. He sold his business and moved on a half allotment in acreage of land, and in every respect, the time was very hard for our parents. In the year 1884 they wandered out to America, Marion County, Kansas. Our mother died. - She had a great deal of rheumatism and died of an internal tumor - and was buried on July 2, 1889. Father married to widow Katherina Harms, and it went well with them. Of his first marriage he had eight children who outlived him.

6. Gerhard Querkseu, Uncle Gerhard had a very lively nature, was strong and practically never sick. He lived on the land by the Don, Russia; wandered out to America and lived by us in Hillsboro, Kansas. Was a farmer and cattle and hog rancher. In his older age, he lived at and in Reedley, California and finally at last at Fairview, Oklahoma with his John. His second wife had very much trouble with him, being he became childish. He died in 1928 at great age.

7. Elizabeth Querkseu married to Jacob Kroecker in Alexandertal. At times he was a cobbler. They were very poor and belonged to the landless. They were sent away from Alexandertal to the village of their auditor. They had two sons and some daughters.

8. Eva Querkseu, married to Pater Baerg, Elizabetal, a blacksmith foreman. I have met



me of his children in America; but where? — (6)  
Jacob and Katherine — born Funk — Duerksen lived  
in Marion County, Kansas. Their children make the  
V. Generation. — They are the following:

Johann F. Duerksen, born July 25, 1863 in Alefandertal,  
Russia. (and died May 1, 1932). My village school teacher  
was Heinrich Ulrich, a good teacher, but who also  
understood to make good use of the rod. Already at  
that time, I made up my mind, that when I would be  
a teacher, I would not want to swing the rod so  
severely. After finishing the village school, I learned  
to grind in father's mill; but soon I was permitted to  
go to the Central School in Gnadenfeld. My teachers  
were Herman Lenzman, Abraham Braun and teacher  
Haucknecht and Popoukolr. From this Central School  
I was permitted to go to Central School in Halbstadt,  
and after that entered in the Pedagogical  
department. I graduated in May, 1885 and became  
teacher in Andreasfeld. In May, 1887, I moved to  
America to my parents, went some what to  
the district school and then in Salina and  
McPherson and taught 1889-1890 in the church school  
at Buhler and 1898 to 1905 in the German  
department in McPherson College; finally  
1905 to 1916 teacher at the Church School at Corn,  
Oklahoma. I married sister Katherine Warkentin on  
January 9, 1890 in the Ebenezer Church sanctuary near  
by Buhler, Kansas. My dear wife died August 1, 1916.  
I was widower 1916 to September 28, 1924, and on this  
date wedding with widow Gertrude Warkentin born Kroecker  
and have been happy after the years of my loneliness. In the  
year 1893 I was made a preacher in the Memorial Brethren  
Church and still serve, even though in weakness.

Peter F. Duerksen born July 8, 1858 in Alefandertal,  
Russia. (d. in Dec. 21, 1946). Moved with the parents to  
America 1884, went to school and was teacher



and attained the A.B. degree. Married to Anna Balzer, has a fine family, but lives separated from his family. He is in Miami, Florida.

Katherina Duerksen (1869-1903) married to Heinrich Hiebert. They have a fine family. She had to die early of injuries in the breast.

Anna Duerksen (Born September 21 ?, 1871) (d. -1933 ?), married to Cornelius Harms, but he died very soon; after which she married to Abraham Saede.

Jakob K. Duerksen (1875-1946) Born in Russia, moved with the parents to America, became teacher, then music agent, then insurance agent. He is married to Helena Friesen, have three little children, and now live in Wichita, Kansas.

Helena Duerksen, married to Dietrich J. Classen, on their wedding day he received the news, that Uncle Sam had named him to receive 1/4 land in Oklahoma. - They lived thereon and moved to Corn, Oklahoma, in the Church School, after that they moved to Fairview, Oklahoma, then to Bakersfield, California. They have a small family.

Maria Duerksen (1883-1919) married to Jakob Klauer, lived at Corn, Oklahoma, moved to Shafter, California, She has soon died there. They have a small family.

Sara Duerksen (1884-1960 ?) married Jakob Katzlaff. lived at Orienta, Oklahoma. Then at various places in California. They have a nice family, but apparently they are very poor.

Suppliment IV. Generation Jakob J. Duerksen married to Katherina Funk, They had the wedding on May 2, 1862, in the house of the bride's parents.

Peter Funk in Alepandertal.

My grandfather Peter Funk came from Prussia to ~~Prussia~~ with his parents Peter Funk when he was small. He was a member of the Mennonite Church in Gnadenfeld. The name of my grandmother is Julianna Florentina Funky. She was baptized when small and belonged to the Lutheran Church, to which



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dearly adhered until her end. She was grown up when she came from Prussia to Russia. She went to the Snadenfeld Mennonite Church out of love for our grandfather, and she made her way to the fellowship since their wedding. Grandfather Peter Funk had two brothers -- Paul Funk, who made his very difficult way through life, and Heinrich Funk, who also was called Bart Funk (or Beard Funk), who occasionally expressed very amusing opinions concerning matters of faith which were expressed. Apparently his son David Funk is an Adventist preacher, if he is still living. Our grandmother was sickly and for a long time could not drive along (with them) to church every Sunday. She loved reading prayer books and a collection of gems. Our grandparents had 2 sons and four daughters. These are Heinrich Funk, Katherine Funk, Sara Funk, Anna Funk, Wilhelmina Funk. Our mother Katherine Funk, married to Jakob F. Duerksen. Sara Funk, married to Abraham Duerksen, my father's cousin, Anna Funk, married to Heinrich Goosen, Wilhelmina Funk married to Abraham Penner. Peter Funk married to Maria Pauls in a second marriage. This uncle is still living. Numerous children of this uncle and aunts are in Canada and America.

Johann F. Duerksen and Katherine, born Warkentin, had their wedding on January 9, 1890 in the Ebenezer sanctuary near Butler, Kansas. Their family consists of the following children which make up the VI. generation: Johann Walter Duerksen, born in the church school, August 9, 1891, at 7:30 o'clock evening. Went to school in McPherson Public School. Then to me in Corn, then in Weatherford, taught a number of years, and went into the banking business in Cordell. Then in the hardware in Weatherford and Corn, and afterwards in Premont, Texas. Is married to Anna Richey, on February 21, 1915, have 3 children.

Abraham G. Duerksen born in the church school, on January 4, 1893, at 4:30 morning. Studied in the McPherson Public School, then in Corn Valley District School,



to me, then in Weatherford, has taught a few years, married to Maria Bergmann on September 27, 1914, and are happy on their farm. - They have two children, Phann and Abraham. They were baptized on December 2, 1906.

Jakob H. Duerksen, born in the church school on March 9, 1894, at 2:00 afternoon. Went to school in McPherson Public School and Corn Valley District School, and to me. He was not fond of reading books or even learning, also not of studying to become a doctor; he learned carpentry and served as a laborer on the farm, also served in the army during the World War. He was converted and was baptized on November 30, 1919. He married Maria Reimer, the wedding on May 21, 1920. They have two children and are farmer-people.

Peter W. Duerksen, born in the church school on July 5, 1895 approximately at 5:00 morning. He came during a severe thunderstorm and we could not get a doctor for help. He studied in McPherson Public School and Corn Valley District School, to me, and in Weatherford, taught school and attended school. He has served in army during the War. Afterwards he again studied for the A.B. degree or B.S. He has married Anna Warkentin. On September 17, 1922 they had the wedding. He was converted and was baptized on April 7, 1912 on Easter Sunday.

Katherina Duerksen, born in the church school on October 9, 1896 approximately at 11:00 before noon. She is our only daughter. She studied at the College kindergarten, then in McPherson Public School, and in Corn Valley District School, and to me, and then she should help the mother. She was converted and was baptized on April 7, 1912 on Easter Sunday. Jakob S. Warkentin had the wedding with her on August 3, 1919, and (she) moved with him to California.

Heinrich McKinley Duerksen, born in the church school on April 14, 1898, approximately at 2:30 morning.



(10)  
I in the College Hindergarten in McPherson  
School; and Corn Valley District School, and  
was supposed to study under me, but that  
me to naught. He didn't like books. He would  
much rather dash through the neighborhood and  
shoot skunks and wolves and muskrats, and  
work on the land. He was in Canada during  
the War and came home in approximately 1920.  
He married Erna Harms, they had the wedding  
on June 5, 1921. They have three <sup>little</sup> children. He was  
converted and was baptized on June 16, 1918.  
He is employed in the Post office.

Gerhard Herbert Querksew, born in McPherson  
on December 8, 1901 on Sunday at approximately  
at 6:30 morning. He studied in Corn Valley  
District School, and to me, and in Weatherford,  
and Tabor College. He taught and studied. He  
was converted and is baptized on July 11, 1915.  
He has attained his B.S. and his A.B. and is  
striving for his A.M. and apparently should  
soon attain his M.A.

So, the children of my children  
make the VII. Generation.

Corn, Oklahoma  
12-29-1928

Dear Menno:

Here you have something of our family chronicle.  
O, Menno: all kinds of people among our relatives  
-- the well and sick, smart and dumb, honorable  
and culprits.

Oh, what a grace, whoever can keep the faith  
and rightly complete his race, and can through God's  
grace fight the good fight and reach Heaven. God  
stand by us, that we, saved from sin and preserved  
from sin might live for Him in time and eternity. The  
almighty bless you and make you a blessing in your  
doctor practice.

Respectful greetings to you,  
your old Uncle J. F. Querksew and Wife.